

# THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

**Thursday 30th November 2000 7:15 for 7:45**

The Statistical Laboratory,  
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,  
Wilberforce Road, Cambridge

## **Approaches to the analysis of longitudinal studies with dropout: cognitive function and aging**

**David Clayton**

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**Abstract:** Typically the analysis of longitudinal studies of cognitive decline in the elderly is complicated by the fact that cohorts suffer considerable attrition during the follow-up period. It is important to make a clear distinction between attrition due to death and that due to drop-out, since these should not necessarily be treated in the same way in the analysis. In neither case is it generally realistic to assume data to be missing at random. This presentation will compare a subject-specific modelling strategy for such data (implemented in BUGS) with a marginal modelling strategy implemented by weighted estimating equations (in STATA).

**Speaker:** David started out as a psychologist, gravitating to Medical Statistics and Epidemiology in the late 1960's, working first as a computer programmer in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and then as a statistician in the MRC Social Medicine Unit. He then spent 14 years as a Senior Lecturer in Biostatistics in the Medical School of the University of Leicester until joining the MRC Biostatistics Unit in 1990. His interests have largely been in the application of statistics to Epidemiology but have focussed in recent years on Genetic Epidemiology. As a result of this evolution of his interests he will shortly take up a Wellcome Trust Fellowship within the Department of Medical Genetics.

**Directions:** The main entrance is reached from Clarkson Road by going left of the Newton Institute, and following the path round by the edge of a building site to the building (Pavilion A) with a glass front and a curved grassed roof. The main entrance is in the middle of the glass front. Coffee before the talk will be in the common room in Pavilion D, and the talk will be in Meeting Room 4 in Pavilion A. Free parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads.

**Next Meetings: (2001)**

8th February – Graham Healey (Huntingdon Life Sciences).

8th March – John Barrett (Genetics).

10th May – Jennifer Potts (Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit).

**Provisional:** 5th April – Judith Quinlan (SmithKline Beecham).

**Supper:** Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.

**Subscriptions:** of 4 pounds per member are now due for the 2000-2001 session. Cheques should be made payable to Robert Milroy and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.

**Secretary:** Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF; telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

## Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1998-99

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1998-99 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge on 4th October 1999. Present: Eryl Shirley(in chair), Dave Andrews, Tim Cole, Monique Cruickshank, Mary Garratt, Graham Healey, Julie McGiven, Rob Milroy, Pamela Morris, Chris Palmer, Jim Slattery, Peter Treasure, Peter Watson, John Wood. Apologies: Margaret Corbett, Anthony Edwards, Tim Sparks.

The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

**Reports:** The **Treasurer's** Accounts were circulated. It was decided to keep the subscription at 4 pounds for the coming session. Margaret was warmly thanked for her long and loyal service to the committee over a decade! The **Secretary** reported number attending (60) was up on last session (48) despite having one less meeting!

**Election of officers and committee:** Rob Milroy was proposed as treasurer by Peter Treasure. June Anderson was proposed by Monique Cruickshank as an ordinary member to replace Diane Stockton who had moved from the area. Both were elected unopposed. Peter Watson thanked Diane for her refreshing presence. The committee for 1999-2000: *chair* Eryl Shirley; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Rob Milroy; *ex-officio* Peter Rothery; *ordinary* June Anderson, Tim Sparks, Helen Tate.

**Any Other Business:** Churchill College was endorsed as the venue for the November meeting.

### Treasurer's Accounts and Report 1999-2000

Expenditure	1999-00	1998-9	Income	1999-00	1998-9
Secretarial expenses	£65.70	£83.74	Initial cash balance	£107.09	£115.59
Speakers' expenses	£21.29	£16.95	Subscriptions (No. of people)	£120.00	£132.00
Refreshments	£25.45	£26.01		(30)	(33)
Secretary -in hand	£4.82	£17.30			
Balance c/f	£112.09	£107.09	Interest	£2.26	£3.50
Totals	£229.35	£251.09		£229.35	£251.09

**Treasurer's Report:** It has been a stable year financially and I therefore suggest we keep the subscription at £4 for the coming session 2000-2001.

### Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1999-2000

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1999-2000 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge on 5th October 2000. Present: Eryl Shirley(in chair), Tim Cole, Chris Corbett, Mary Garratt, Mark Hill, Tony Johnson, Julie Jones, Rob Milroy, Clive Moncrieff, Pamela Morris, Alistair Murray, Karen Ooms, Haidee Philpott, Goerge Quartey, Lisa Robertson, Susan Talbot, Peter Treasure, Peter Watson. Apologies: Margaret Corbett, Anthony Edwards, Tim Sparks, Helen Tate. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were approved.

**Reports:** The **Treasurer's** Accounts were presented. It was agreed to keep subscriptions at £4. The **Secretary** reported median attendance (13) was up on last year.

**Election of officers and committee:** Peter Treasure proposed Dave Andrews as chair and Margaret Corbett as an ordinary member replacing June Anderson. Both were elected unopposed and the rest of the committee re-elected unopposed. Many thanks to ex-chair Eryl for her sparkling presence.

The committee for 2000-2001: *chair* Dave Andrews; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Rob Milroy; *ex-officio* Eryl Shirley; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Tim Sparks, Helen Tate. **Any Other Business:** None